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press release

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McLean, VA, May 23, 1983 -- Machine tool orders and shipments decreased slightly in April from the previous month, according to data released today by the National Machine Tool Builders' Association. Net new orders for U.S.-made metal-cutting and metal-forming machine tools fell by 5% for a monthly total of $119,150,000, while shipments declined 14% at $151,350,000 for the period.

Order backlogs for the industry dropped below $1 billion, at $988,800,000, down from $2 1/2 billion last April and from $5 billion two years ago.

"The machine tool industry is still at rock bottom," said NMTBA President, James A. Gray. "And until the rest of the manufacturing industry rallies strongly for at least several months, we can only hope that the rock doesn't give way."

(over)

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"But our biggest fear," Gray said, "is that in the meantime unabated imports -- subsidized by foreign governments and now at a level of 42% of the machine tools being installed in the United States -- will permanently cripple our industry, and in so doing, irreversibly impair U.S. defense capability."

For the month of April, metal-cutting machine tool orders were down 11% at $79,850,000. Shipments in the category declined 16% to a total of $113,500,000.

Net new orders in the metal-forming category rose 10% for the month, tallying $39,300,000, while shipments of metal-forming machine tools dropped 10% at $37,850,000 for the period.

Combined machine tool orders were off 34% year-to-date compared to the first four months of 1982. 1982 had been the worst year in the industry's post World War II history.

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COMPARISON CHART

NET NEW ORDERS -- MACHINE TOOLS
(Thousands of Dollars)

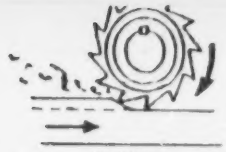
	METAL CUTTING			METAL FORMING			TOTAL Cutting and Forming		
	Domestic	Foreign	Total	Domestic	Foreign	Total	Domestic	Foreign	Total
April 1983	74,150	5,700	79,850	37,400	1,900	39,300	111,550	7,600	119,150
March 1983	84,950	4,700	89,650	32,050	3,800	35,850	117,000	8,500	125,500
% Change									
Apr.1983:Mar.1983	-12.7	+21.3	-10.9	+16.7	-50.0	+9.6	-4.7	-10.6	-5.1
April 1982	107,550	7,550	115,100	29,950	5,750	35,700	137,500	13,300	150,800
% Change									
Apr.1983:Apr.1982	-31.1	-24.5	-30.6	+24.9	-67.0	+10.1	-18.9	-42.9	-21.0
Year To Date 1983	280,000	23,950	303,950	117,100	12,950	130,050	397,100	36,900	434,000
Year To Date 1982	435,950	64,000	499,950	133,850	23,800	157,650	569,800	87,800	657,600
% Change									
1983 : 1982	-35.8	-62.6	-39.2	-12.5	-45.6	-17.5	-30.3	-58.0	-34.0

SHIPMENTS -- MACHINE TOOLS
(Thousands of Dollars)

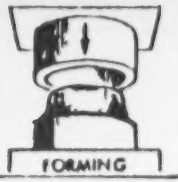
	METAL CUTTING			METAL FORMING			TOTAL Cutting and Forming		
	Domestic	Foreign	Total	Domestic	Foreign	Total	Domestic	Foreign	Total
April 1983	101,350	12,150	113,500	35,000	2,850	37,850	136,350	15,000	151,350
March 1983	119,700	14,700	134,400	36,400	5,450	41,850	156,100	20,150	176,250
% Change									
Apr.1983:Mar.1983	-15.3	-17.3	-15.6	-3.8	-47.7	-9.6	-12.7	-25.6	-14.1
April 1982	214,600	24,850	239,450	56,300	7,700	64,000	270,900	32,550	303,450
% Change									
Apr.1983:Apr.1982	-52.8	-51.1	-52.6	-37.8	-63.0	-40.9	-49.7	-53.9	-50.1
Year To Date 1983	431,150	52,950	484,100	136,000	18,700	154,700	567,150	71,650	638,800
Year To Date 1982	1,075,900	96,600	1,172,500	236,550	48,600	285,150	1,312,450	145,200	1,457,650
% Change									
1983 : 1982	-59.9	-45.2	-58.7	-42.5	-61.5	-45.7	-56.8	-50.7	-56.2

Source: National Machine Tool Builders' Association

Form No. PRCC-2



TOTAL INDUSTRY ESTIMATE
MACHINE TOOLS - CUTTING AND FORMING
New Orders, Cancellations, Shipments and Backlog



DATE	NET NEW ORDERS Domestic	Foreign	Total	Order Backlog (In Mil. $)	SHIPMENTS Domestic	Foreign	Total
1983							
Jan.	$ 80,300,000	$ 11,550,000	$ 91,850,000	1,132.60	$ 131,450,000	$ 21,400,000	$ 152,850,000
Feb.	$ 88,250,000	$ 9,250,000	$ 97,500,000	1,071.75	$ 143,250,000	$ 15,100,000	$ 158,350,000
Mar.	$ 117,000,000	$ 8,500,000	$ 125,500,000	1,021.00	$ 156,100,000	$ 20,150,000	$ 176,250,000
Apr. (p)	$ 111,550,000	$ 7,600,000	$ 119,150,000	988.80	$ 136,350,000	$ 15,000,000	$ 151,350,000
4 Mos.	$ 397,100,000	$ 36,900,000	$ 434,000,000		$ 567,150,000	$ 71,650,000	$ 638,800,000

DATE	GROSS NEW ORDERS Domestic	Foreign	Total	CANCELLATIONS Domestic	Foreign	Total
1983						
Jan.	$ 93,450,000	$ 12,500,000	$ 105,950,000	$ 13,150,000	$ 950,000	$ 14,100,000
Feb.	$ 98,600,000	$ 9,900,000	$ 108,500,000	$ 10,350,000	$ 650,000	$ 11,000,000
Mar.	$ 128,400,000	$ 10,200,000	$ 138,600,000	$ 11,400,000	$ 1,700,000	$ 13,100,000
Apr. (p)	$ 128,900,000	$ 9,350,000	$ 138,250,000	$ 17,350,000	$ 1,750,000	$ 19,100,000
4 Mos.	$ 449,350,000	$ 41,950,000	$ 491,300,000	$ 52,250,000	$ 5,050,000	$ 57,300,000

P - Preliminary

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NOTE: This table includes industry estimate figures based on reports submitted to the National Machine Tool Builders' Association. These industry estimates have not been adjusted for change in the value of the dollar.

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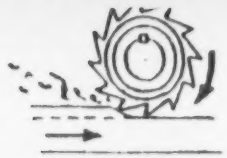

INDUSTRY ESTIMATE
METAL CUTTING TYPE MACHINE TOOLS
New Orders, Cancellations, Shipments and Backlog

DATE	NET NEW ORDERS Domestic	NET NEW ORDERS Foreign	NET NEW ORDERS Total	Order Backlog (In Mil. $)	SHIPMENTS Domestic	SHIPMENTS Foreign	SHIPMENTS Total
1983							
Jan.	$ 51,350,000	$ 5,700,000	$ 57,050,000	992.65	$ 93,400,000	$ 14,000,000	$ 107,400,000
Feb.	$ 69,550,000	$ 7,850,000	$ 77,400,000	941.25	$ 116,700,000	$ 12,100,000	$ 128,800,000
Mar.	$ 84,950,000	$ 4,700,000	$ 89,650,000	896.50	$ 119,700,000	$ 14,700,000	$ 134,400,000
Apr. (p)	$ 74,150,000	$ 5,700,000	$ 79,850,000	862.85	$ 101,350,000	$ 12,150,000	$ 113,500,000
4 Mos.	$ 280,000,000	$ 23,950,000	$ 303,950,000		$ 431,150,000	$ 52,950,000	$ 484,100,000

DATE	GROSS NEW ORDERS Domestic	GROSS NEW ORDERS Foreign	GROSS NEW ORDERS Total	CANCELLATIONS Domestic	CANCELLATIONS Foreign	CANCELLATIONS Total
1983						
Jan.	$ 62,750,000	$ 6,050,000	$ 68,800,000	$ 11,400,000	$ 350,000	$ 11,750,000
Feb.	$ 78,300,000	$ 8,450,000	$ 86,750,000	$ 8,750,000	$ 600,000	$ 9,350,000
Mar.	$ 95,900,000	$ 6,350,000	$ 102,250,000	$ 10,950,000	$ 1,650,000	$ 12,600,000
Apr. (p)	$ 88,850,000	$ 7,400,000	$ 96,250,000	$ 14,700,000	$ 1,700,000	$ 16,400,000
4 Mos.	$ 325,800,000	$ 28,250,000	$ 354,050,000	$ 45,800,000	$ 4,300,000	$ 50,100,000

P - Preliminary

N.M.T.B.A. F - 1c

NOTE: This table includes industry estimate figures based on reports submitted to the National Machine Tool Builders' Association. These industry estimates have not been adjusted for change in the value of the dollar.

INDUSTRY ESTIMATE
METAL FORMING TYPE MACHINE TOOLS
New Orders, Cancellations, Shipments and Backlog

DATE	NET NEW ORDERS Domestic	Foreign	Total	Order Backlog (In Mil. $)	SHIPMENTS Domestic	Foreign	Total
1983							
Jan.	$ 28,950,000	$ 5,850,000	$ 34,800,000	139.95	$ 38,050,000	$ 7,400,000	$ 45,450,000
Feb.	$ 18,700,000	$ 1,400,000	$ 20,100,000	130.50	$ 26,550,000	$ 3,000,000	$ 29,550,000
Mar.	$ 32,050,000	$ 3,800,000	$ 35,850,000	124.50	$ 36,400,000	$ 5,450,000	$ 41,850,000
Apr. (p)	$ 37,400,000	$ 1,900,000	$ 39,300,000	125.95	$ 35,000,000	$ 2,850,000	$ 37,850,000
4 Mos.	$ 117,100,000	$ 12,950,000	$ 130,050,000		$ 136,000,000	$ 18,700,000	$ 154,700,000

DATE	GROSS NEW ORDERS Domestic	Foreign	Total	CANCELLATIONS Domestic	Foreign	Total
1983						
Jan.	$ 30,700,000	$ 6,450,000	$ 37,150,000	$ 1,750,000	$ 600,000	$ 2,350,000
Feb.	$ 20,300,000	$ 1,450,000	$ 21,750,000	$ 1,600,000	$ 50,000	$ 1,650,000
Mar.	$ 32,500,000	$ 3,850,000	$ 36,350,000	$ 450,000	$ 50,000	$ 500,000
Apr. (p)	$ 40,050,000	$ 1,950,000	$ 42,000,000	$ 2,650,000	$ 50,000	$ 2,700,000
4 Mos.	$ 123,550,000	$ 13,700,000	$ 137,250,000	$ 6,450,000	$ 750,000	$ 7,200,000

P - Preliminary

N.M.T.B.A. F - 1d

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